Diego interests Inter

AFP, Rome

Serie A giants Inter Milan are desperately trying to sign Brazilian starlet Diego, according to the Gazzetta dello Sport on Monday.

The 18-year-old attacking midfielder, whose full name is Diego Ribas da Cunha, is one of the hottest properties in South America after playing a major role in Santos' league championship success last year.

The Gazzetta said Inter's directors are busy trying to negotiate a deal with the Brazilian club to beat off the competition and land Diego in January when the transfer window reopens

Diego, whose contract with Santos



DIEGO

ends in 2005, likes to play behind the two main strikers but has also played wide on the right.

The paper said that Inter are also looking to strengthen their squad by signing Dutch midfielder Edgar Davids from Juventus in the summer when his contract expires.

Inter are fifth in the league on 16 points, seven adrift of leaders Iuventus.

Maturana's last?

AFP. Barranauilla

Colombia's shock defeat at home to Venezuela appears to have made coach Francisco Maturana's position untenable and the only question now seems to be when, rather than if, he will resign.

Defeat by a team usually regarded as the ugly ducklings of South American football has left Colombia with no points from three outings in the qualifiers for the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

Although they still have 15 matches to play over the next two years and plenty of time for recoverv, few commentators believe that it will take place under Maturana.

"Francisco Maturana, as the leader of the group, has to go," wrote Gabriel Meluk in El Tiempo, SCOREBOARD pointing out that the coach had promised his resignation on Friday in the case of failure against Venezuela. "For the sake of dignity and the common good and for the simple elegance of not going back on his word," he added. The only debate now seems to be whether Maturana should go before the team's next match at home to Argentina on Wednesday or afterwards.



AFP, Paris Wales will be seeking to end a 45-year wait when they bid for a place in next year's Euro 2004 finals on Wednesday

while Scotland must cling on to their lead against the under-performing superstars of Holland. The 1958 World Cup was the last

time Wales qualified for a major football finals but a bad-tempered scoreless draw against Russia in the playoff first leg on Saturday puts them tantalisingly close to ending that wait in Cardiff

Wales faced a nervous wait before the showdown at the Millennium Stadium after UEFA agreed to review video evidence following angry demands from the Russian camp that Ryan Giggs should be suspended for the second leg.

> Russia claimed the Wales winger elbowed defender Vadim Evseev in an off-the-ball incident the referee failed to see in Moscow. UEFA's verdict is expected on

Tuesdav After leading their qualifying group

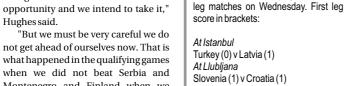
for so long Wales slipped up and allowed Italy to snatch the group winner's spot, condemning Mark Hughes' team to the lottery of the playoffs for next year's finals in Portugal.

Hughes is concerned his players seize their opportunity this time.

"You only get so many chances at this level, we should have qualified outright but now we have another opportunity and we intend to take it,"

"But we must be very careful we do when we did not beat Serbia and Montenegro and Finland when we expected to. "We have had false dawns before but we do not want any more glorious

Goalkeeper Paul Jones said the players are ready to make history. "It's our first chance and maybe our



At Cardiff Wales (0) v Russia (0) At Amsterdam Holland (0) v Scotland (1)

At Oslo Norway (1) v Spain (2) * Winners earn place in next year's

only chance," Jones told Sky Sports. "But this bunch of lads has been

England embarrassed ROM PAGE 13 Flintoff's run of good scores as England slipped to 26-4 by the 13th over. Flintoff, who had scored three unbeaten halfies against Bangladesh, was caught by Kumar SRI LANKA ngakkara in the Vaas returned for his second spell to terminate the Kaluwitharana Giles made 21, the second highest score after Paul ingwood's 31, as England struggled to put bat to ball in Extras:

ing conditions. Kulasekara, making his debut along with Fernando, sed all-rounder Rikki Clarke and Ian Blackwell even as oned spinners Muttiah Muralitharan and Upul udana removed the lower order.

together for a few years under Mark of Holland.

Judgement night

with fellow striker Patrick Kluivert has

eroded morale in the Dutch camp,

rejected suggestions that his team

could not put their personal rivalries

Manchester United forward. "We have

a great group of players and a great

team as well, so that's not the right way

there will be a big, big party in the

whole of Holland. If we don't make it, it

will be a big, big disaster for the whole

RYAN GIGGS

FIXTURES

Fixtures for Euro 2004 play-offs, second

finals in Portugal

"It will be fantastic if we make it -

"I don't think that's true," said the

aside for the national good.

and I think we can do it."

World Cup finals.

to describe us.

Van Nistelrooy could win his per-Scotland produced the perforsonal battle with Patrick Kluivert if mance of the weekend to stun Holland coach Dick Advocaat opts to break up 1-0 in the first leg in Glasgow, but face a their partnership which failed to work potential backlash in the Amsterdam on Saturday

Sport

ArenA against a team who dare not fail Scotland coach Berti Vogts meanagain after missing out on the 2002 while insists attack is his side's only option. Ruud Van Nistelroov, whose rift

"We are looking for one goal," he said. "We will not go to Amsterdam looking for a 0-0 - that is not my style."

Like Holland, Spain are another footballing giant for whom failure to qualify would be a disaster.

They lead Norway 2-1 going into the second leg in chilly Oslo, but their opponents' defensive tactics in the first leg in Valencia drew criticism from Spain midfielder Joaquin Sanchez.

"It's so different from the Spanish style of play that they deserve to be fined," Joaquin told the Marca website on Monday.

"The thing is, they don't even try to play any differently.

In the two other playoffs, Latvia defend a 1-0 lead against World Cup semi-finalists Turkey in Istanbul and Slovenia host Croatia in Ljubljana after the first leg finished 1-1.

Turkey, whose place in the playoffs followed their failure to beat England last month in Istanbul, get one more chance to exploit a home advantage.

Senol Gunes's men need victory not only to avenge a shock defeat and secure a place at Euro 2004, but to show that their third-place World Cup finish was no flash in the pan and that Turkey are genuinely an emerging force in the game.

the pressure and the crowd's expectations in their 0-0 draw with England and can ill-afford to fall into the same trap a second time.

Croatia, who finished third at the 1998 World Cup, are facing the prospect of elimination by the away rules goal after being held at home by Slovenia.

Croatian hopes of qualifying will inevitably rest on Dado Prso, who scored four times in Monaco's remarkable 8-3 demolition of Deportivo Coruna a fortnight ago and opened the scoring after five minutes in Zagreb

A cooler

Kahn!

AFP, Munich

Uruguay, who have made a habit of upsetting their powerful neighbours Brazil, are confident they can pull off another shock in Wednesday's World Cup qualifier.

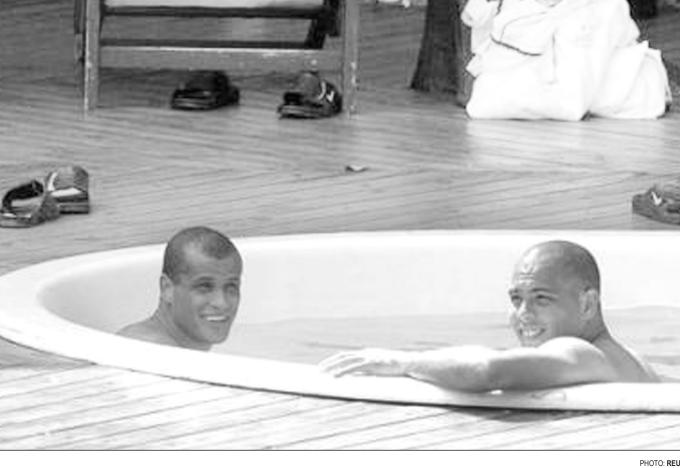
REUTERS/AFP, Curitiba

Flamboyant Uruguay coach Juan Ramon Carrasco, who has promised to ditch the country's dour defensive traditions, refused to be overawed by the prospect of facing the five-times world champions on their own turf.

DEUTSCHLAND

2006

"Individually, Brazil are world champions, but in the collective aspect, we have a lot of faith in ourselves," said Carrasco, who last month irritated the get the three points." Brazilians by suggesting that he was a better coach than his counterpart Carlos



Brazilian superstars Rivaldo (L) and Ronaldo cooling off at the swimming pool of the team's hotel outside Curitiba, Brazil on November 17.

Uruguay plot a shock

lost their 100 percent record in their 1-1 draw away to Peru on Sunday.

Brazil's population is around 60 times bigger than Uruguay's but the 'Charruas' have often taken pleasure in making life difficult for their neighbours

Their most famous upset was in 1950 when an apparently invincible Brazilian team lost 2-1 in Rio de Janeiro's Maracana stadium in the decisive match of that year's World Cup.

side and won their last meeting, in a World Cup qualifier two years ago, by a single goal in Montevideo.

Inter Milan's attacking midfielder Alvaro Recoba, whose left foot is one of Uruguay's most potent weapons, is still doubtful because of a hamstring strain. Parreira, who has been under fire for being too predictable, said he was finally

considering altering his team. "I'm thinking of making one or two changes," he said. "At home we have to

Real Madrid's Roberto Carlos and Barcelona's Ronaldinho will again be doorman Reginaldo Barbosa as he the outcome. The players and directors imposed a swept the sidewalk in front of a

Copacabana apartment building. Griping about the national team is nothing new, and even a workmanlike win is cause for complaint here.

But the draw against tiny Peru rankled even more, because it meant Brazil had to concede first place to archrivals Argentina. `Tie with the taste of loss,'' read the

headline on the Rio news daily Extra. The Rio sports daily Lance chose to

> emphasize that Parreira was happy with the draw. `Parreira Likes It'' read the Lance

headline. Fans and sports writers alike cheered Rivaldo for scoring Brazil's only goal, and ripped Parreira for maintaining a defensive play-it-safe scheme on the

field. Brazilians hunkered down for a repeat of the 1994 World Cup campaign, where they complained about the coach right up until the moment the team won the championship.

Parreira is often criticized for deploying a dull win-at-all-costs style of soccer that fans say lacks the art and samba for which Brazilian soccer is famous.

eight teams. The week's other games have Ecuador (three points) hosting Peru (four) in Ouito on Wednesday while or Tuesday Chile (4) are at home to Paraguay (6) and Venezuela (3) take on Bolivia (3) in Maracaibo.

media silence on Sunday as speculation

mounted about the future of the 54-

year-old coach, who led the country to

and quiet," said Inter Milan defender

Ivan Cordoba, who returns to the side

after missing the Venezuela game

his future but raised evebrows on

Saturday when he said the team would

succeed "with or without me."

Maturana has not commented on

Argentina beat Bolivia 3-0 on

Saturday and are still trying to win back

the enthusiasm of the public following

their shock first-round exit at last year's

Veron is again available after suspen-

sion and expected to regain his place at

take two of the four South American

places at the World Cup but the other

two -- plus a play-off for a further place -

- are seen as open to any of the other

the expense of Matias Almevda.

Chelsea midfielder Juan Sebastian

Brazil and Argentina are expected to

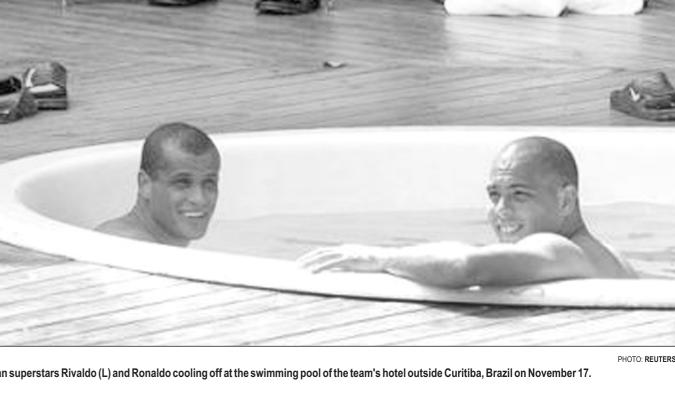
"We just need to have a bit of peace

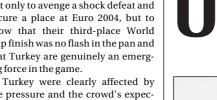
the 1990 and 1994 World Cups.

through suspension.

World Cup.

Uruguay, who won the World Cup for the second and last time on that occasion, have since lost their position as a power in the game. But they are still a thorn in Brazil's





Maturana, who is in his fourth stint in the job, would not comment after the game but said he was confident the team would gualify "with or without me."

Ironically, it was Maturana who put Colombia on the football map as he steered them to the 1990 and 1994 World Cups.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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THE AFRICAN WILDLIFE TRIP PROCEEDING TODAY?" "SAFARI SO GOOD!" Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals E

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

notably downbeat after Germany's 3-0 defeat by European champions France in Gelsenkirchen.

Bayern Munich and Germany's

opinionated captain Oliver Kahn has

vowed to cut down on his outbursts

in the media claiming he needs to

his frustration in public if Bayern or

Germany are under par but was

Kahn, 34, is renowned for voicing

focus on his goalkeeping duties.

"My job in goal is difficult enough," Kahn insisted to the Munich newspaper TZ. "I cannot work on all fronts all the time. I have to think of myself.

"People always expect me to show my feelings. It is like that at Bayern and with the German national team.

"It is time for the others to take on the responsibility.

However, Kahn still found a few words for Germany's lacklustre home display against France, declaring: "You sense that the team justed wanted it to be over quickly."

UEFA to probe tunnel incident

AFP, Nyon

European football's governing body UEFA said Tuesday they were investigating allegations of incidents in the tunnel involving Turkish players and security staff at Saturday's Euro 2004 play-off with Latvia in Riga.

The alleged incidents occurred after Latvia won the first leg 1-0. The second leg is being played in Istanbul on Wednesday, with the winners going through to the European Championship finals in Portugal next June

UEFA said if there was a case to be answered, the matter will be dealt with at the UEFA Control and Disciplinary Body meeting on December 4.

Last month the Turkish football federation was fined 30,000 Swiss francs (19,000 euros, 22,000 dollars) for improper conduct of players and security staff after a 0-0 draw with England.

The English FA was fined 10,000 Swiss france

A mass brawl erupted at half-time after Turkey's Aston Villa defender Alpay poked England captain David Beckham in the face as the two sides went into the tunnel.

England qualified for next year's finals as winners of Group 7 with Turkey consigned to a play-off against Latvia

Alberto Parreira.

Uruguay have picked up six points in their three qualifiers so far and are third in the single South American group, although their defeat was an by an emphatic 4-1 against Paraguay. Brazil, second behind Argentina on

goal difference, have seven points from three games and are still unbeaten, but

Hospitality

FROM PAGE 13

They are Shahnewaz Shahid Shanu (Rajshahi), Shahidul Alam Ratar (Dhaka Metro), Muklesur Rahman Bablu (Dhaka Division), Sheikh Salauddin (Khulna), Nurul Abedin Nobel (Chittagong), Emdadul Haq Imdu (Sylhet) and Jafarul Ehsan (Barisal).

The appointed coaches will form and guide the divisional teams for the league.

Australia

Gardens in Calcutta on Tuesday:

Gilchrist b Agarkar Hayden c Laxman b Zaheer Ponting c Laxman b Kartik Martyn c Yuvraj b Sehwag 61

Bevan not out Clarke not out 44 Extras: (b-4, lb-7, w-7) 18 Total: (For 5 wkts in 50 overs) 235

Bracken 0 M Bowler R W Agarkar 8 2 50 0 29 Zaheer 6 Salvi 3 0 23 0 Kartik

10 1 34 8 0 35 5 0 23 0 INDIA: Dravid, Tendulkar, Sehwag,

Toss: Australia. Umpires: David Shepherd (England) and Avi Jayaprakash (India)

unavailable because of injury. While Brazil didn't lose against Peru on Sunday, drawing was just as bad for

most fans.

As Brazilians returned to work Monday, the World champion's lackluster play and criticism of coach Parreira

were the topics of the day. Playing like that, the team didn't

even deserve the tie," complained

Argentina travel to the steamy Caribbean port of Barranquilla where they face a Colombian side still looking for their first points and reeling from a humiliating home defeat against outsiders Venezuela on Saturday.

Colombia are expecting beleagured coach Francisco Maturana to resign after Wednesday's match regardless of

Venezuela, the only South American team never to have played at a World Cup, have an excellent chance to build on Saturday's surprise win in Colombia as they attempt to break their duck.

PCB issues new schedule

Fleming still a possibility, police hunt emailer

Cricket

AFP/REUTERS, undated

Pakistan on Tuesday announced a revised itinerary for the New Zealand cricket tour after postponing the series by one week in the wake of threats of violence

New Zealand Cricket (NZC) has agreed to the new schedule proposed by the Pakistan Cricket Board, the PCB announced in a statement

"NZC confirmed the revised schedule of their tour to Pakistan ... and have expressed their satisfaction following extensive discussions on security and safety issues with us," the statement said.

The Black Caps will arrive in eastern city Lahore on November 27 to play five one-day matches to make up for last year's tour, which was cancelled after a suicide bomber killed 14 people outside the players' hotel in Karachi.

This month's tour was thrown into doubt after four New Zealand players pulled out in response to an anonymous email threatening violence if they played during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, due to end around November 26.

The email was sent to Craig McMillan and that prompted him and three teammates Scott Styris, Ian Butler and Lou Vincent to pull out.

A fifth player, captain Stephen Fleming, pulled out citing injury. However, Fleming now says he would have no qualms joining his teammates for the one-day series in Pakistan if his abdominal injury clears up quickly

Speaking to reporters at Auckland terror strikes in 2002 kept foreign teams Airport on Tuesday, Fleming said he away would get his injury assessed in The Proteas played under heavy secu Christchurch on Wednesday and that he rity, with the cities of Karachi and Peshawar dropped from the itinerary could be fit to join the New Zealand side n Pakistan

"I've come home because it is hard to get a diagnosis in India. But if it comes right in the next week I'll definitely be in the time frame for the tour (of Pakistan)," he said after flying in from Dec 5: Fourth ODI, Rawalpindi (D/N) the TVS Cup tri-series against hosts **Dec 7**: Fifth ODI, Rawalpindi (D/N) India and Australia.

Pakistani police said Tuesday they had traced the email to a sender using an Internet cafe in Lahore and launched a hunt for the suspect "The content of the threat reportedly

said New Zealand cricketers would risk their lives if they play on the holy nights of Ramadan.

Police have questioned staff of the cafe and they are now looking for the suspect," Karachi police chief Asad Ashraf Malik told AFP adding it was too early to say if an organised group was behind the threat.

Under the new schedule the Kiwis will now play two day-night matches in Lahore on November 29 and December l, a one-day match in industrial city Faisalabad on December 3, and two dav-night matches in Rawalpindi, next to the capital Islamabad, on December 5

and 7. A tour by Pakistan to New Zealand will also have to be delayed. Pakistan were due to play their first match, a three-day game against Canterbury, on December 8.

> South Africa in September became the first western side to tour Pakistan in 15 months after a series of anti-Western

because of perceived risk. **REVISED** ITINERARY Nov 27: arrival in Lahore Nov 29: First ODI, Lahore (D/N) Dec 1: Second ODI, Lahore (D/N) Dec 3: Third ODI, Faisalabad

Fergie goes legal

AFP, London Manchester United manager Alex

Ferguson is sueing his club's biggest shareholders in a row over the ownership of a record-breaking racehorse.

Newspapers reported Tuesday that Ferguson's solicitors have issued legal proceedings against Irish racehorse owners JP McManus and John Magnier, who control 23 per cent of United, claiming half-ownership of Rock of Gibraltar which could be worth between 50 million and 100 million pounds depending on the stallion's success at stud

Magnier has already made it clear to the Old Trafford board that he wants the row settled before Ferguson signs a new five million pound-a-year contract extension.

A statement from Coolmore Stud said: Coolmore Stud has today (Monday) been advised that legal proceedings have been issued against Mr John Magnier by Alex Ferguson alleging certain ownership rights for the stallion Rock of Gibraltar.

19 36

Symonds c Badani b Harbhajan 10 40

Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-32, 3-112, 4 129, 5-170 To bat: Harvey, Bichel, Williams

10 1 30 1

Harbhajan Sehwag Badani

Laxman, Yuvraj, Badani, Agarkar, Harbhajan, Zaheer, Kartik, Salvi

FROM PAGE 13

AUSTRALIA